

The Fierce Green Fire

A Newsletter of the Wofford College Environmental Studies Program

ENVS 202 spent the afternoon exploring the Northside community to prepare for their final art projects.



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Northside Saunter by Professor John Lane

On Wednesday afternoon I took my environmental humanities class on our annual excursion into the Northside, walking from Wofford's campus, across Church Street, down College Street, and into the heart of Spartanburg's most visionary redevelopment project. Our goal was to "feel it," the way nature and culture collide, intermingle, and morph in a landscape that has been through at least five major redevelopments in 200 years— primordial piedmont hardwood forest and stream valley, farm, textile mill village, post-industrial urban "blight" interspersed with viable remaining pockets of residences, and finally, neoliberal redevelopment "project" taking advantage of for- and non-profit partnerships.

In true ENVS apocalyptic fashion, we talked about a large persimmon that is doomed by coming development in College Street, and how the tree (which I hug regularly) has figured prominently in every environmental writing class I have ever taught; we watched flycatchers and a red-shouldered hawk hunting above the waving grass of the newly day lighted Butterfly Branch Greenway.

And the point of it all? Each student will produce art from their interaction with the Northside— a short video, or a series of photos, or maybe even a painting. Next week's final class of the semester will be an art exhibit. Watch this space to see a few of the results!



(Top) Students in Dr. Telligman's ENVS 151 and Dr. Brewitt's ENVS 450 visited Sierra Nevada Brewery to learn about sustainability practices. (Middle) Parking lot signage describes their efforts to reduce energy costs. (Bottom) A bicycle station made from a recycled keg.

Upcoming Events and Opportunities

May 5th
 9:00am-10:00am
 3100 Walnut Grove Rd.
 Roebuck, SC 29376

Power Hour River Sweep: Join the Tyger River Foundation at the Tyger 10 Nature Center for their quarterly Tyger River clean-up day. RSVP to inorris@tygerriver.org if you are interested in volunteering.

May 16th
 7:30pm
 Rosalind S Richardson
 Center for the Arts

An Evening with Charles Frazier: The author of the award-winning and bestselling novel, *Cold Mountain*, is on a book tour with his new novel, *Varina*. Hub City Books is hosting a discussion between Frazier and Professor John Lane. 50 free tickets are being offer to the Wofford community (Wofford ID required) at the door, first come first serve. Tickets are \$30 (includes a copy of the book). Visit [Eventbrite](#) for more information.

May 26th
 9:00am-10:30am
 1925 Sandy Ford Road
 Chesnee, SC 29323

Paddle Fest: Meet at Lake Blalock Park for an educational paddle tour. Spartanburg Water hosts this free event for 20 participants ([registration required](#)). Participants are encouraged to bring their own kayaks, canoes, stand-up paddle boards and safety equipment (a limited supply are available for loan on a first come, first served basis).

PROFILE OF THE WEEK:

Louisiana State University – College of the Coast and Environment

LSU's College of the Coast and Environment includes the [Department of Oceanography and Coastal Sciences \(DOCS\)](#) and the [Department of Environmental Sciences \(ENVS\)](#). Each program offers master's and doctoral degrees as well as minors in Environmental Sciences, Oceanography and Coastal Sciences, and Wetland Science and Management.

The DOCS degree focuses on ecological and oceanographic processes from the coastal zone to the deep ocean. Students learn about physical, biological and geological oceanography and coastal science

research. Faculty include world renowned experts focusing research on coastal ecology, coastal fisheries, and wetland biogeochemistry.

The ENVS degree provides students with a holistic, integrative approach to interdisciplinary environmental research and education. Research categories include Biophysical Systems, Environmental Assessment and Analysis, and Environmental Planning and Management.

[LSU – College of the Coast & Environment](#)